

Docket No. P13066

Serial No. 10/037,239

**REMARKS**

In view of the amendments proposed above, Applicants respectfully request consideration of the following remarks.

**Anticipation Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

**Anticipation Rejection Based on United States Patent 6,055,636 to Hillier et al.**

Claims 1-5, 7, 36-40, and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,055,636 to Hillier et al. (hereinafter "Hillier"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as set forth below.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. A computer implemented method comprising:  
reading distinguished name data from a signed certificate received from a certificate authority, the signed certificate received in response to a certificate signing request provided to the certificate authority, the certificate signing request validating an identity to the certificate authority; and  
searching a data structure to identify the certificate signing request associated with the signed certificate, the identified certificate signing request corresponding to the read distinguished name data

Docket No. P13066

Serial No. 10/037,239

Independent claim 36 recites some limitations similar to those recited in independent claim 1.

As claimed, the embodiment of claim 1 is directed to a computer implemented method which includes reading distinguished name data from a signed certificate that has been received from a certificate authority and searching a data structure **to identify a certificate signing request associated with the signed certificate**, wherein the identified certificate signing request corresponds with the distinguished name data.

Hillier is generally directed to a method and apparatus for centralizing the processing of key and certificate life-cycle management. Column 2, Lines 36-38. Hillier does not, however, disclose the identification of a certificate signing request that is associated with a signed certificate. **Hillier does not even mention certificate signing requests. Applicants have amended the claimed embodiments to more clearly delineate one purpose of a certificate signing request, which is to validate an identity (e.g., the identity of a server or subscriber) to the certificate authority. Again, Hillier does not discuss such a certificate signing request nor the association of a signed certificate with such a certificate signing request.**

As Hillier fails to disclose at least the above-noted limitations of independent claims 1 and 36, each of these claims is novel in view of Hillier. Also, claims 2-5 and 7 are allowable as depending from novel independent claim 1, and claims 37-40 and 42 are allowable as depending from novel independent claim 36.

Docket No. P13066

Serial No. 10/037,239

**Obviousness Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

To reject a claim or claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the Examiner bears the initial burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness. M.P.E.P. § 2142. When establishing a prima facie case of obviousness, the Examiner must set forth evidence showing that the following three criteria are satisfied:

First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or to combine teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art references (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. M.P.E.P. § 2143.

The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on the applicant's disclosure. M.P.E.P. § 2142 (citing *In re Vaeck*, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991)). Also, the evidentiary showing of a motivation or suggestion to combine prior art references "must be clear and particular." *In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d 994, 999, 50 U.S.P.Q.2d 1614, 1617 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

Obviousness Rejection Based on United States Patent 6,055,636 to Hillier et al. in View of *HOW TO: Enable SSL for All Customers Who Interact with Your Web Site*

Claims 6 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hillier in view of *HOW TO: Enable SSL for All Customers Who Interact with Your Web Site*, Microsoft, October 2001 (hereinafter "*HOW TO: Enable SSL*"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as set forth below.

Docket No. P13066

Serial No. 10/037,239

Hillier and *HOW TO: Enable SSL*, either individually or in combination, fail to disclose all limitations of independent claims 1 and 36 and, therefore, each of these claims is nonobvious in view of these references. If an independent claim is nonobvious, then any claim depending from the independent claim is also nonobvious. M.P.E.P. §2143.03 (citing *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). Therefore, claims 6 and 41 are allowable as depending from nonobvious independent claims 1 and 36, respectively.

Obviousness Rejection Based on United States Patent 6,055,636 to Hillier et al. in View of United States Patent 6,067,623 to Blakley, III et al.

Claims 8-11, 14-18, 19-28, 29-35, 43-46, 49-53, and 54-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hillier in view of United States Patent 6,067,623 to Blakley, III et al. (hereinafter "Blakley"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as set forth below.

Each of independent claims 8, 19, 29, 43, and 54 was amended to recite some limitations similar to those recited in independent claim 1, as amended. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that Hillier and Blakley, either individually or in combination, fail to disclose all limitations of independent claims 8, 19, 29, 43, and 54. Therefore, each of independent claims 8, 19, 29, 43, and 54 is nonobvious in view of Hillier and Blakley.

Also, if an independent claim is nonobvious, then any claim depending from the independent claim is also nonobvious. M.P.E.P. §2143.03 (citing *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). Therefore, claims 9-11 and 14-18 are allowable as

Docket No. P13066

Serial No. 10/037,239

depending from nonobvious independent claim 9, claims 20-28 are allowable as depending from nonobvious independent claim 19, claims 30-35 are allowable as depending from nonobvious independent claim 29, claims 44-46 and 49-53 are allowable as depending from nonobvious independent claim 43, and claims 55-63 are allowable as depending from nonobvious independent claim 54.

Obviousness Rejection Based on United States Patent 6,055,636 to Hillier et al. in View of United States Patent 6,067,623 to Blakley, III et al. and Further in View of *HOW TO: Enable SSL for All Customers Who Interact with Your Web Site*

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hillier in view of Blakley and further in view of *HOW TO: Enable SSL*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as set forth below.

Hillier, Blakley, and *HOW TO: Enable SSL*, either individually or in combination, fail to disclose all limitations of independent claim 8 and, therefore, this claim is nonobvious in view of these references. If an independent claim is nonobvious, then any claim depending from the independent claim is also nonobvious. M.P.E.P. §2143.03 (citing *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). Therefore, claim 17 is allowable as depending from nonobvious independent claim 8.

**Claim Objections - Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 12, 13, 47, and 48 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but each of these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Final Office Action, at page 11. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's

Docket No. P13066

Serial No. 10/037,239

indication of allowable subject matter. However, as set forth above, each of independent claims 8 and 43 is patentable in view of the cited prior art. Thus, Applicants submit that each of claims 12, 13, 47, and 48 is patentable as written in dependent form.

Docket No. P13066

Serial No. 10/037,239

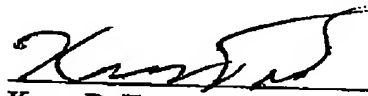
**CONCLUSION**

Applicants submit that claims 1-63 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of such claims.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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